To Gary, Paul, Jim and Hal from HW 6/7/89
EPSTEIN IN NEW ORLEANS

I have always felt Epstein's comprehension was low or he was guided by others. You have probably heard me refer to Liebeler as his benefactor and say (and, indeed, write, in WWII) that without Liebeler Epstein would have had no book. Both are possible, if not probable, despite his intelligence, for understanding this subject requires more than intelligence.

Wednesday I was able to spend a few hours at the annual American Booksellers' Association convention in Washington (normally I am there every day all day). I was given a bound set of proofs of "Counterplot". This was an edition intended for rush purposes, it would seem, as though for getting review copies in the hands of reviewers before paging. If the page numbers written in where they end are accurate, then material was added, for some of the pages are light, not enough type. I cite this as indication there was a sudden rush on the book, like to use against Garrison, for it was undertaken when there was no sign of a trial date.

I have had time only to glance at it. The "prologue" has a real catchy title, "Oswald in New Orleans". That is all I've read so far. However, reading that, even with the low opinion of Epstein it can accurately be said I enjoy, that shocked me. It has the grossest error in it and is clearly designed to protect the government and the Commission and its Report and, naturally and decently, Liebeler. This is true of what it says as well as what it fails to say.

The prologue title is not the only unoriginal thing in the prologue. This "edition" is without the notes, so I do not know what he cites. However, it is clear that single-citation footnotes will not cover the material used, therefore I assume that he merely took from others what he desired. The internal evidence of uncredited indebtedness to OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS is abundant. There was material in it that is in no other source, official or otherwise, and Epstein uses it.

However, these are not things I'd take your timex or mine with. In the prologue are things that are either inventions, by Epstein or others for him, or he has had access to official information not in any we have been able to see or get, and this is the purpose of my writing. After their hassle in Calif., I am incline to believe Liebeler is not the source, as I am also inclined to believe Liebeler will persist in his silence, which I date to November 1967 and which is prior to this writing. Bearing on this are several other things indicating an Epstein-government relationship, neither of which is absolutely certain. Larry Schiller told me, in Bill O'Connell's presence in 12/66, that a deal had been made for Epstein to see the pictures and X-rays so he could report on them. If this was true, I was able to end the possibility as soon as I returned home. And two bright Univ. Wisc. students phoned me immediately after they had needled Epstein at an Iowa speech to report they had fled two FBI agents who seemed to be with Epstein and who accosted and queried them as soon as they did the needling.

When I can I will finish this book. If any of you have any thoughts from having read it I'd welcome them. And, because I cannot go out and buy such crap, while I want to have the finished edition, I'll wait until it is remaindered. If and when you see it on sale for a dollar, which might be now, I'd appreciate your getting a copy for me. Meanwhile, I'll be annotating this one. Later I can compare them. In other cases, this has been fruitful.